

The Honorable Senator Martin Heinrich
Hart Senate Office Building #709
Washington, DC 20510

April 10, 2024

Dear Senator Heinrich,

We write out of concern today that the Border Patrol has been seizing legal cannabis flower and cannabis products from New Mexico operators. The seizures are having an impact on our businesses, and we are asking for your assistance changing Border Patrol policy.

Over the past 8 weeks seizures have occurred at different checkpoints in southern New Mexico. These seizures have had a major negative impact on the affected businesses with close to \$300,000 of lost value.

In many of these cases, drivers have been detained for 3 hours or more. Several drivers have had their fingerprints taken. One recent driver was asked to step out of their vehicle for a secondary inspection and was told they were under arrest, but was not read his Miranda rights.

Since adult use legalization, cannabis has become a \$1 billion industry in our state. Thousands of jobs and economic opportunity have popped up in communities that have not seen this type of opportunity for decades, if ever. Mom and pop shops are providing retirement dreams for owners. Large operators have put at stake millions of dollars in investments in some cases. Border Patrol seizures of legal product threatens the burgeoning cannabis industry and economic opportunity in New Mexico.

Our ask is that Federal Border Patrol policy be updated for state-legal cannabis. We request that if a legally licensed operator has the state required paperwork for safe transport of cannabis products, they should be allowed to proceed through any federal checkpoint within the State of New Mexico without being detained, without having products seized, or their vehicles confiscated. In addition, we request that operators who have had product federally seized should be allowed to either get their product returned or be monetarily compensated for the losses they've sustained.

We stand together as an industry, ready to discuss solutions and to help further break stigmas about cannabis.

Sincerely,



Matthew Chadwick
Dark Matter/Top Crop



Ben Lewinger
Cannabis Chamber of Commerce



Ryan Strand
Smokey Road Farms



Matthew Kennicott
The Plug



Kai Kirk
Head Space Alchemy



Ari Greenwald
Impact Farms



Justin Walkinshaw
Laughing Leaf Dispensary



Veronica Vasquez
High Maintenance



Tiffany Johnson
Spliff Quick Transportation



Timothy White
Moth Transportation



Julieta Vega
Amnesia Dispensary